

Winter travel chaos looms after gritters vote to strike



More than 75% of GMB members working in Carmarthenshire County Council (CCC) highways department have voted in favour of industrial action and action short of strike.

With results expected from Unison and Unite later this week, there could be a blanket ban on winter gritting duties - meaning roads across south Wales could grind to a halt in the new year.

With blizzards and polar winds predicted to hit Wales in the next few weeks, it could cause Travel Chaos on icy rural lanes in Carmarthenshire.



“ Heavy snow in Wales as Met Office issues weather warnings -
pictures <https://t.co/HOtXPSD0Q2>

— Manchester News MEN (@MENnewsdesk) November 14, 2019

The vote follows a long running dispute between GMB, Unison and Unite unions and CCC over the issue of rates of pay for staff under-taking winter gritting duties.

Carmarthenshire currently has some of the worst terms and conditions for staff under-taking gritting duties in comparison with other local authorities

Peter Hill, GMB Regional Organiser said:

“We’re really disappointed that its come to this. We’ve negotiated in good faith since last Christmas and yet here we are one year later without being any closer to a deal.

“Our members have spoken. They are angry and frustrated and unwilling to put up with it anymore. Why should they voluntarily give up their evenings and weekends without a reasonable retainer?”

“Carmarthenshire County council now needs to put forward a serious and fair deal or we could end up risking travel chaos in the new year.”

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Member requiring help?

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